

**Weather Forecast**  
Rain ending this afternoon; windy, much cooler tonight; fair tomorrow.  
Temperatures—High, 72, at 12:01 a.m.; low, 61, at 6:55 a.m.; 66 at 1:30 p.m. Yesterday—High, 83, at 5 p.m.; low, 60, at 7:45 a.m.  
Late New York Markets, Page A-19

**Guide for Readers**

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# YANK DRIVE COSTS GERMAN 100,000 MEN

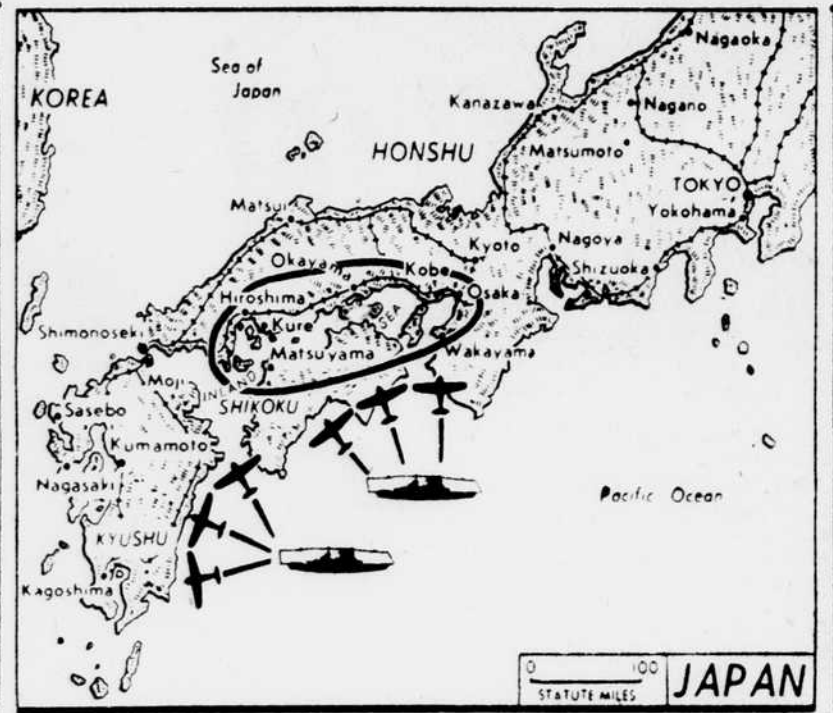
## Patton Closing on Ludwigshafen; U. S. Flyers Hit 17 Jap Warships

### Enemy Believed Unable to Rally For Major Stand

PARIS, Mar. 21.—The German debacle in the Saarland and Palatinate appeared likely today to cost Hitler's badly bled forces close to 100,000 casualties as the United States 3d Army closed to within 5 miles of the great chemical center of Ludwigshafen-Mannheim and fought inside Mainz.

Two German armies, the 1st and 7th, either were wiped out or doomed except for scattered elements.

At supreme Allied headquarters it was estimated that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d Army alone had herded an estimated 30,000 Nazis into prison pens in 48 hours as it and Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's 7th Army closed new traps which might boost the over-all total of captured in the whirlwind campaign to 75,000.



### 475 Planes Blasted In Carrier Attack On Home Fleet

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Mar. 21.—At least 17 Japanese warships, including a 45,000-ton superbattleship and eight aircraft carriers, were crippled Monday by more than 1,000 American carrier planes which hunted down the bulk of the enemy home fleet hiding in Japan's 240-mile-long inland sea.

The audacious raiders from Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's task force, penetrating a hitherto untouched area which Japan considered safe for her navy, also destroyed 475 enemy planes Sunday and Monday and damaged well over 100 more.

WHERE UNITED STATES CARRIER FORCE STRUCK—The Island Sea area of Japan (circled), where planes from a record American carrier task force struck a heavy blow Monday at units of the Japanese Fleet.

### Reds Mass Artillery At Stettin's Edge, Peril To Berlin Increases

#### Zhukov Probing Along Oder Preparatory for Drive Toward Capital

MOSCOW, Mar. 21.—The 1st White Russian Army, now in possession of virtually the entire east bank of the Oder from the Baltic to its confluence with the Neisse, today crowded siege artillery to the very edge of Stettin, after wiping out the enemy's Altdamm bridgehead.

The menace to Berlin grew hourly as Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov probed many places along the river, seeking springboards for his next big attack east and northeast of Berlin.

### 2,000 U. S. Planes Blast Nazi Airfields And Tank Factory

#### Another British Air Fleet Attacks Large German Oil Refinery at Bremen

LONDON, Mar. 21.—A force of 2,000 American bombers and fighters today attacked nine airfields in northwestern Germany and a tank factory at Plauen, 10 miles from the Czechoslovak border, while another fleet of British planes blasted a large oil refinery at Bremen.

Both assaults were staged before noon. Berlin said United States 15th Air Force bombers from Italy were over Austria, continuing blows which yesterday knocked out all through railway lines between Vienna and Munich.

### Rich Saar Valley Won.

The rich Saar Valley, with its steel mills and vast coal deposits, was won, taking from Germany her third largest industrial sector.

Important cities such as Saarbrücken (population 135,000), Kaiserslautern (61,000), Worms (50,000), Voelklingen (31,000) and Zweibrücken (16,000) were captured by the surging American 3d and 7th Armies.

### Lack of Nazi Power Apparent.

Already the lack of punching power east of the Rhine was apparent in German ranks. Prisoners pleaded dejection to the rear, uncounted thousands. The enemy had thrown the best troops saved from the 1st Parachute and 6th Panzer Armies at the Remagen bridgehead and failed to check its expansion.

The enemy was falling back on the narrow Siegfried and Westwall, plainly despairing of driving the Americans from the east bank of the Rhine.

### More Prisoners Added.

Up to yesterday Gen. Patton's 3d Army had inflicted 45,000 casualties on the German 1st and 7th Armies. He added 8,229 prisoners to that yesterday and still had 20,000 awaiting transport to cages. The 7th Army, serving as an anvil for Gen. Patton's hammer blows from the north, had captured 6,040 prisoners by yesterday and inflicted some thousands more casualties in killed and wounded.

### Nazi Pocket Collapsing.

In East Prussia, Marshal Alexander M. Vasilevsky, for two years chief of staff of the Red Army, was staging the final kill in a dwindling German pocket along the coast southwest of Königsberg.

Disclosure that Marshal Vasilevsky had taken over the 3d White Russian Army front after the battle death of Gen. Ivan Cherniakhovsky was made in Premier Stalin's order of the day yesterday saluting the capture of Braunsberg, one of two German bastions in the pocket.

### Poor Fighters Executed.

As in Kolberg last week, Russian storm units found German dead hanging from makeshift gallows in Altdamm. An Investia dispatch said an order from Hitler had been found saying that troops leaving positions voluntarily should be shot on the spot. On bodies in army uniform were signs reading "hanged because of cowardice."

### Others Within Artillery Range.

Other great German cities were either in or almost within artillery range. Frankfurt (546,649) was 18 miles away. Weidenau (172,039) 4 miles across the Rhine from Mainz. Speyer (25,000), capital of the Palatinate, was 15 miles from the 3d Army. The 7th Army was in the steel mill town of Voelklingen (31,000) and both armies were investing Neunkirchen (40,500). Karlsruhe (190,000) was 7 miles across the

### Americans Feint at Berlin.

The American planes hit airfields located near Hopelitz, Rheine, Achmer, Althorn, Hesepe, Handorf, Zwischenahn, Wittmundhaven and Marx, some of which are bases for jet-propelled Messerschmitts.

The German radio said one force of heavy bombers, presumably American, feinted toward Berlin, then turned south to attack the already devastated city of Dresden near the Russian front.

### Nazi Vehicles Knocked Out.

For 35 out of the last 36 days Germany has been attacked by great forces of American and British warplanes carrying out the most intensive air offensive in history.

### U. S. Artillery Observer in Cub Herds 24 Nazis to Capture

By THOMAS R. HENRY, Star Staff Correspondent.

WITH UNITED STATES TROOPS ON THE RHINE, Mar. 21.—First instance of taking German prisoners with an airplane was reported here today. The plane was a Cub used for artillery observation with Lt. John Gaston, Corsicana, Tex., and James Coy, Bradenton, Fla., in the cockpit.

### Byrd Group Hears Flemming Defense of Government Hiring

#### Told Utilization Check Of U. S. Is Closer Than Any Other One Employer

By J. A. O'LEARY.

No additional steps are necessary to regulate the hiring of Government employees, Arthur S. Flemming, a member of the Civil Service Commission, told the Byrd Joint Congressional Economy Committee today.

He testified that, as an employer, the Government has subjected itself to more checks insofar as utilization of personnel is concerned than any other single employer.

### Plan to Cut Transit Service Protested By Colored Groups

#### Manpower Shortages Cited by Company at PUC Hearing on Move

Representatives of colored organizations today protested before the Public Utilities Commission a proposal to reduce the number of streetcar trips during base day, or nonrush, hours from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As the company witnesses sought to show that the reduction of scheduled runs was necessary because of continuing manpower shortages, the spokesmen for the colored organizations and the Citizens' Committee on Race Relations maintained that the commission should not agree to the proposed schedules until all available manpower sources had been tapped.

### Net Reduction of 127,000.

Figures presented by Mr. Flemming showed a net reduction in civilian personnel during the 18 months ending January 1 of 127,000. Civilian personnel estimates, the chairman Byrd of the joint economy group repeatedly has contended the Government could cut its force by 300,000 workers.

Mr. Flemming testified that the total number of Federal employees at the latest count is: In continental United States, 2,888,900; overseas posts, 449,800, or a grand total of 3,338,700.

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### Nazis Ask to Give Up To McAuliffe, Famed For 'Nuts' Reply

The fame of Maj. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe of Washington who answered a German demand for surrender at Bastogne with the terse reply, "Nuts," apparently has spread to enemy forces.

At that time he was a brigadier general and acting commander of the 101st Air-Borne Division. Now he commands the 103d Division.

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### Mine Wage Parley May Take Recess Indefinitely Today

#### UMW and Operators Deadlocked on Demands; Conciliators Watching

The deadlocked soft-coal wage conference recessed "indefinitely" today after another effort to reach agreement on a new work contract.

The recess was taken at the request of the operators' Negotiating Committee after the conference had met for about two hours. One committee member said it was uncertain when they would reconvene, but a representative of the United Mine Workers pointed out that under conference rules, the negotiators would be required to meet again today before they could formally recess.

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## Soldiers Get Orders to Obey Curfew Rules

### Concessions Granted 3 Luxury Restaurants Here Rescinded

The administration has hit back at Mayor La Guardia's defiance of the national curfew order through a War Department directive requiring all soldiers to leave New York City liquor-serving establishments by midnight.

This development was reported last night as the War Manpower Commission's area office here rescinded permission, granted Monday, for three luxury restaurants to remain open after midnight to serve food only. They were the Troika, Ruby Foo's and the China Clipper.

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